

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1679

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DEPT PLEASE PASS: BRACKETT, AID/W, PHA/POP

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SPOP, TECH, TGEN, IR, AIDAC
SUBJ: IRAN'S CURRENT POPULATION STATISTICS

REF: (A) STATE 46866
(B) STATE 51606
(C) LETTER FROM BATTELLE TO DR. SARDARI

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL (A), IN MEETING YESTERDAY, MARCH 16 WITH DR. AMIR MANSOUR SARDARI, DEPUTY MINISTER HEALTH FOR FAMILY PLANNING, HE PROVIDED EMBASSY POPULATION OFFICER (SCIENCE ATTACHE) WITH FOLLOWING DATA BASED ON MOST RECENT CENSUS (SEPT 1976) RESULTS OF WHICH HAVE JUST BEEN FULLY ANALYSED: (A) PRESENT TOTAL POPULATION IS (OFFICIAL FIGURE): 33,591,875; (B) THE AVERAGE INTERCENSAL GROWTH RATE IS 2.6 PERCENT PER ANNUM (PREVIOUS CENSUS WAS IN 1966). HOWEVER, CURRENT RATE IS LESS. NAMELY, 2.4 PERCENT PER YEAR (THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS FOR 1.5 PERCENT POPULATION INCREASE PER YEAR BY 1990); (C) ACCORDING TO 1976 CENSUS THE BIRTH RATE IS 38 PER 1000 AND THE DEATH RATE IS 13 PER 1000; (D) THERE ARE NO DATA NOW AVAILABLE ON SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES, HOWEVER, MIN HEALTH ANTICIPATES IT WILL HAVE THIS INFORMATION WITHIN FEW MONTHS. HOWEVER, THE GENERAL FERTILITY RATE IS ABOUT 200 BIRTHS PER 1000 WOMEN (WHO ARE MARRIED AND OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE, 15-44) PER YEAR; (E) ABOUT 1.1 MILLION COUPLES IN IRAN, WHICH CORRESPONDS TO ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF THE ELEGIBLE

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COUPLES IN THE COUNTRY, ARE PRACTICING FAMILY PLANNING, WITH TECHNIQUES, IN DECREASING ORDER OF POPULARITY BEING: PILLS, IUD'S, CONDOMS; (F) THE AVERAGE SIZE OF THE HOUSEHOLD IN IRAN HAS DECLINED FROM SEVEN PERSONS IN 1966 TO SLIGHTLY LESS THAN FIVE PERSONS IN 1976; (G) THE RATE OF URBANIZATION IS NOW ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 7 PERCENT PER YEAR, WITH LARGE TOWNS ATTRACTING INTERNAL MIGRANTS; (H) CONCERNING AGE STRUCTURE, THE POPULATION

OF IRAN IS YOUNG WITH APPROXIMATELY 47 PERCENT UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE AND 55 PERCENT UNDER 20; (I) AS RECENT SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY REVEALED THAT THE MAJORITY OF MARRIED WOMEN INTERVIEWED (63 PERCENT) FELT THAT BIRTH CONTROL AND FAMILY PLANNING WERE ACCEPTABLE PRACTICES WITH THE ISLAMIC FAITH. RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN IRAN NOW GENERALLY ACCEPT FAMILY PLANNING; (J) THE GOI CONSIDERS THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM TO BE AN INTERGRAL PART OF THE NATIONAL PLAN FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND NOT FOR POPULATION POLICY ALONE.

2. RE REFTTEL(B), MISSION HAS NO CANDIDATES FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD WORKSHOP, CHICAGO, APRIL 4-29, 1977.

3. ON REF LETTER (C) PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO JACQUELINE GARDNER, CONFERENCE COORDINATOR, BATTELLE POPULATION STUDY CENTER, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, TEL: 206-525-3130 FROM DR. SARDARI: QUOTE: MY ASSOCIATE DR. LOFTOLLAN ZIAI WILL PRESENT A PAPER AT THE TUNIS CONFERENCE, MARCH 27-30, 1977, ON THE SUBJECT "POPULATION FAMILY PLANNING IN IRAN" WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE PROGRAM AND SERVICES TO RURAL AREAS. ZIAI WILL BRING SEVERAL PRINTED COPIES OF HIS PAPER FOR DISTRIBUTION AT THE CONFERENCE.END QUOTE.
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